

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 1-5 and 9 as follows:

1. (amended) A method for fabricating an implantable device, the method comprising:

fabricating an approximate replica of bone [the bone-like structure] by sequentially solidifying adjoining, cross-sectional intervals of a fluid material along an axis.

2. (amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein a design data base is first generated by scanning at least a portion of an animal's body using imaging techniques to generate a design data base of measurement data representing size and shape of the bone [bone-like tissue] in a three dimensional coordinate system and then fabricating said replica in correspondence with the data in said design data base.

3. (amended) A method in accordance with claim 2 [1] wherein the step of solidifying a fluid material comprises bonding ceramic particles.

4. (amended) A method in accordance with claim 2 [1] wherein the scanning step comprises generating the data base by scanning a body part of a healthy individual animal and archiving the data base for subsequent use.

Q/
cancel

5. (amended) A method in accordance with claim 4 wherein the method further comprises modifying the data base to make selected changes in the size and shape of the bone [hard tissue] represented by the data base.

AJ

9. (amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the step of solidifying fluid material comprises cementing particles [which are cemented] together with a polymer.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9, and 11-13, as amended, are in the case.

The Examiner objected to the drawings requiring that Fig. 1 be labelled as prior art. Applicant will submit new drawings including the required labelling.

The Examiner objected to claims 1-5, 9, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for a variety of reasons described by the Examiner. The Examiner's objection is well taken and the claims have been amended to remove the objectionable language. The manner in which the 35 U.S.C. 112 objections are overcome is believed readily apparent. However, Applicant makes some comment about some of the changes.

With respect to claims 3, the claim now further limits the method step by specifically reciting that the solidifying step further comprises the bonding of ceramic particles.

With respect to claims 4 and 5, the claims should have